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Commission on  
Improving the  
Status of Children

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# Commission on Improving the Status of Children

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APRIL 19, 2023

# Agenda

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1. Welcome
2. Consent Agenda
  - a. Minutes from February 2023 meeting

# Agenda

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## 3. Strategic Priority: Child Health and Safety

Dr. Jack Turman, Grassroots Maternal and Child Health Initiative, IUPUI

*Presentation:* Infant Mortality and Housing



# HOUSING EQUITY FOR INFANT HEALTH

*VISION: ENSURING THAT A SAFE AND AFFORDABLE PLACE TO CALL HOME IS A RIGHT FOR EVERY MOTHER AND CHILD*

Jack Turman, Jr., Ph.D.  
Professor

Dept. of Social and Behavioral Science, Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health  
Dept. of Pediatrics, School of Medicine  
Director, Grassroots MCH Initiative  
Indiana University  
IUPUI

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# What do High Infant and Maternal Mortality Rates Tell Us?

- Infant and maternal mortality are critical indicators of population health
  - Health
  - Social stability
  - Well-being



<https://www.the-scientist.com/speaking-of-science/speaking-of-science-41544>

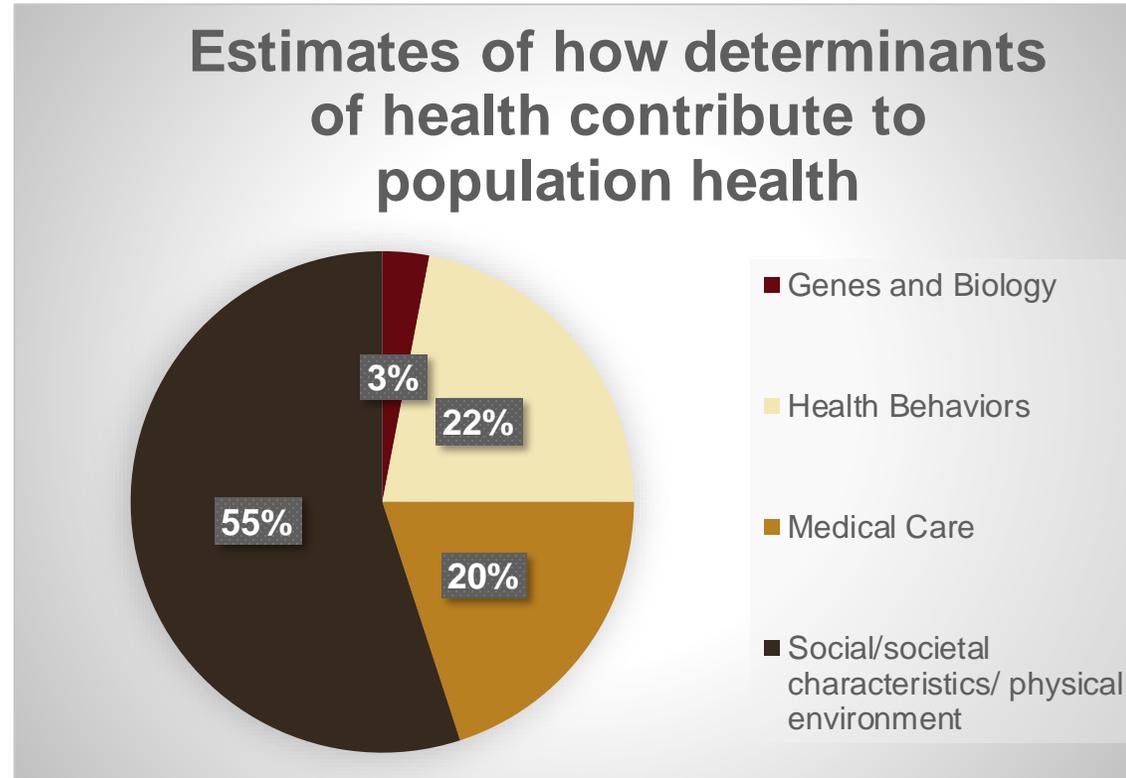


<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/reducing-maternal-mortality-in-low-and-middle-income-countries>

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# The Need to Address Social Factors Surrounding the Families



<http://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/socialdeterminants/faq.html#c>

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# Social Determinants of Health: Addressing Social Systems to Improve Population Health Outcomes

Healthypeople.gov



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Indianapolis



# Latisha's Story



“Pregnant with my son, I stayed with friends because local shelters were full. When the welcome wore out, I slept in cars, abandoned houses, and even on a bench. I once stayed in a car when it was five below zero. I tried to fill up on the free food at work because I didn't know when I was going to eat next. There were some days I didn't get much to eat at all.

It was a scary thing to be out there – pregnant and homeless.”

From: [https://www.nwitimes.com/opinion/after-being-homeless-while-pregnant-my-baby-is-a-miracle-but-nobody-should-go-through/article\\_16774cab-c926-5337-930f-93e6bfac5619.html](https://www.nwitimes.com/opinion/after-being-homeless-while-pregnant-my-baby-is-a-miracle-but-nobody-should-go-through/article_16774cab-c926-5337-930f-93e6bfac5619.html)

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# The Number One Concern of Low- Income Mothers Across Indiana - Housing

- Fort Wayne ranks 13<sup>th</sup> in nation for eviction
- Indianapolis ranks 14<sup>th</sup> in nation for eviction
- Indianapolis ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> behind New York for sheer number of evictions

<https://evictionlab.org/rankings/#/evictions?r=United%20States&a=0&d=evictionRate&lang=en>



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# Housing and Infant Health

Housing instability during pregnancy:

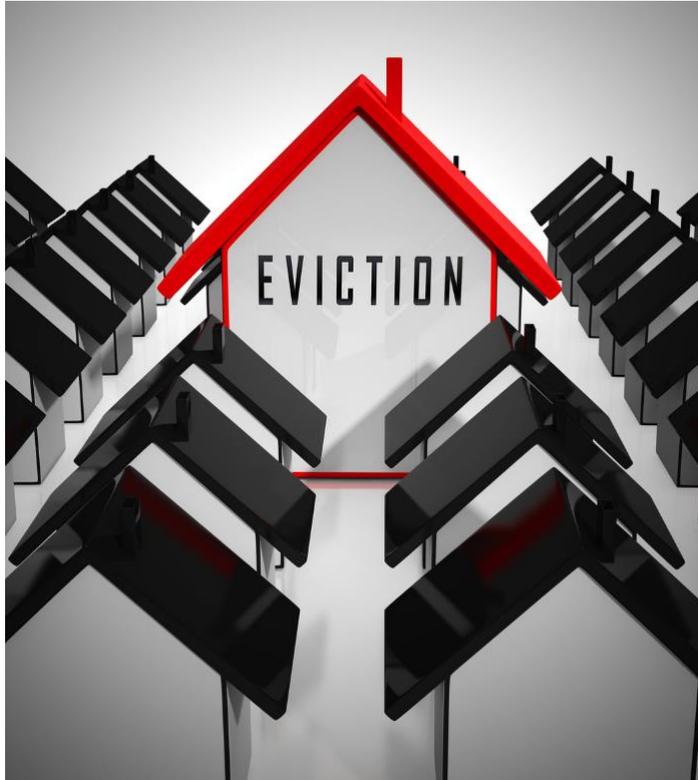
- **20% higher chance of preterm birth**, on par with smoking during pregnancy.
- Increased
  - Length of stay
  - **ER visits** within 3 months and 1 year After birth
  - **Readmission** within 3 months and 1 year after birth
  - [\(Pantall et al., 2019\)](#)



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# ASSOCIATION OF EVICTION WITH ADVERSE BIRTH OUTCOMES



- Examined 88,862 Georgia births and 99,517 evictions
- Eviction during pregnancy associated with:
  - Lower birth weight and gestational age
  - Increased rates of LBW & prematurity
- Effects strongest in second & third trimester

**Himmelstein, G. & Desmond, M., 2021 | JAMA Pediatrics  
|doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2020.6550**

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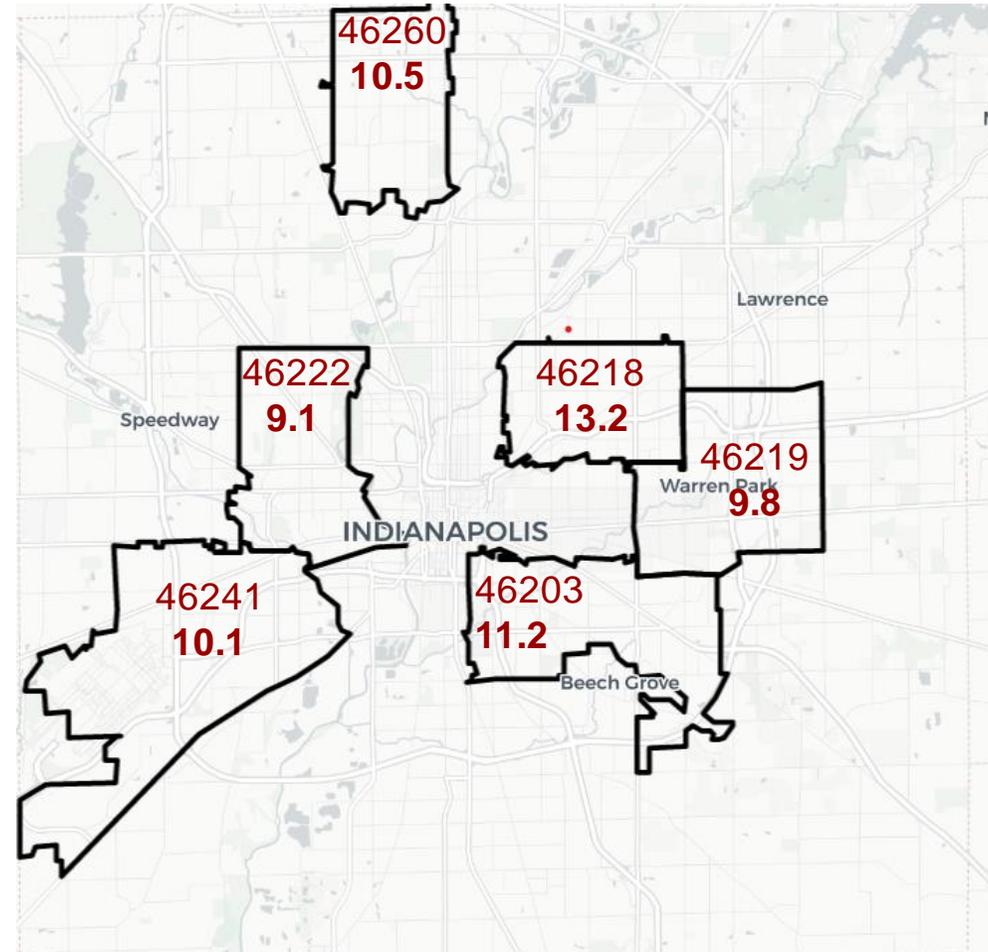


# Marion County - Infant Deaths by Zip Code

Six zip codes in Marion County are nearly **twice** the state's average for Infant Mortality

Indiana Department of Health, Maternal & Child Health Epidemiology Division [October 29, 2021]  
Indiana Original Source: Indiana Department of Health, Vital Records, ERC, Data Analysis Team

Map Retrieved from Community Profiles by Zip Code  
<https://profiles.savi.org/dashboard.html>





# Evictions by Zip Code

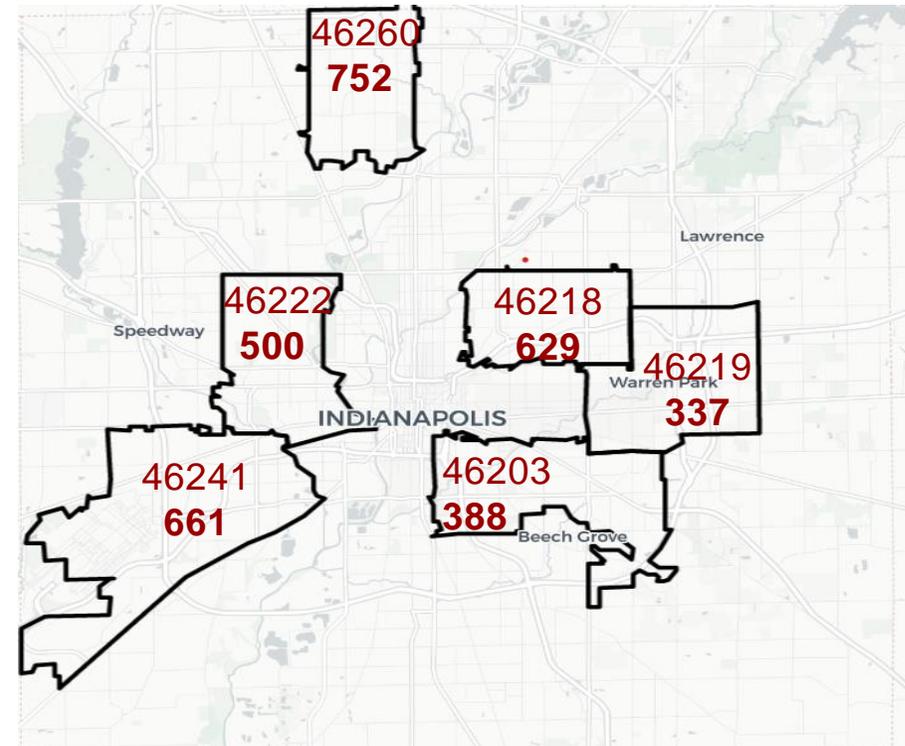
**8.9%** Indiana's Eviction Filing Rate

**21.1%** Eviction Filing Rate for Marion County

[https://evictionlab.org/map/?m=modeled&c=p&b=efr&s=all&r=counties&y=2018&z=5.80&lat=40.14&lon=-90.26&lang=en&l=18097\\_-86.13\\_39.78](https://evictionlab.org/map/?m=modeled&c=p&b=efr&s=all&r=counties&y=2018&z=5.80&lat=40.14&lon=-90.26&lang=en&l=18097_-86.13_39.78)

Evictions by Zip Code retrieved from:

<https://www.savi.org/2022/08/05/follow-the-money-indianapolis-evictions-in-2022/>



**Zip Code in Marion County  
Number of Evictions for the first Six  
Months of 2022**



# HOMELESSNESS AND PREGNANCY COMPLICATIONS

Women who used a  
homeless shelter were:



Clark et al, 2019 | Health Affairs | <https://doi.org/10.1377/hlthaff.2018.05156>

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# Homeless and Pregnant, Homeless and Parenting



[i.huffpost.com](https://www.huffpost.com)

- On average, more than 250 pregnant women and their infants experience homelessness in Marion County between 2017-2021
- In 2020, of 78 infant deaths reviewed by Marion County FIMR – more than half had housing related stressors.



Several studies demonstrate the link between **housing and infant mortality**, few housing interventions have been designed to target infant mortality.



# Addressing Housing Insecure Pregnant Women in Indy!

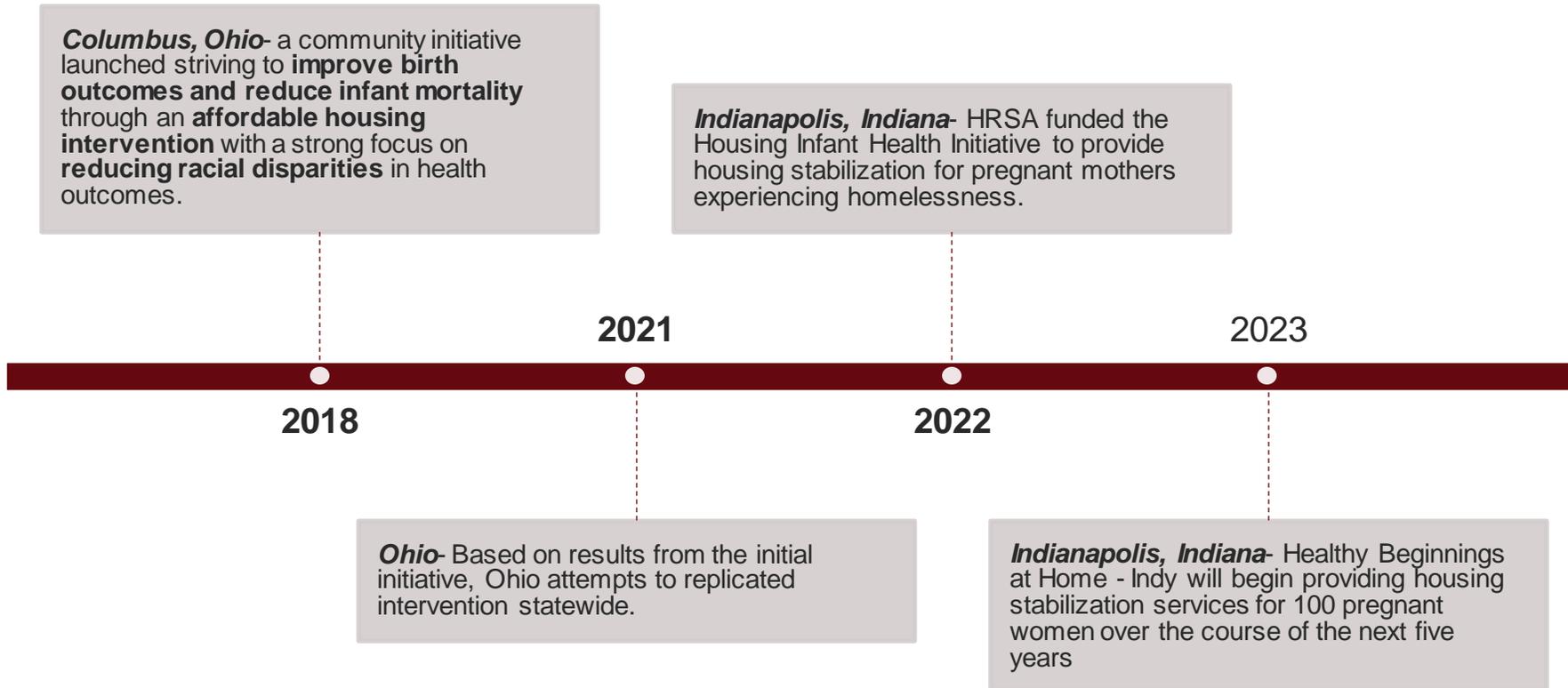
## Housing Equity for Infant Health Initiative



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# History of Healthy Beginnings at Home



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## Good News for Ohio Moms and Babies!

“The Ohio Governor’s office has committed to \$17 million for HBAH in the upcoming state budget (pending final passage of the budget bill in June).

This would be a significant increase from the original \$9 million ask and will help to cover rising rents and the addition of 2-3 more sites.”



# Healthy Beginnings at Home



## Housing Case Management

Assistance with housing coordination  
Identifying participant goals  
Referral Linkage



## Rental Assistance

Step-down rental assistance over the course of 24 months  
Negotiating with landlords  
Utility assistance



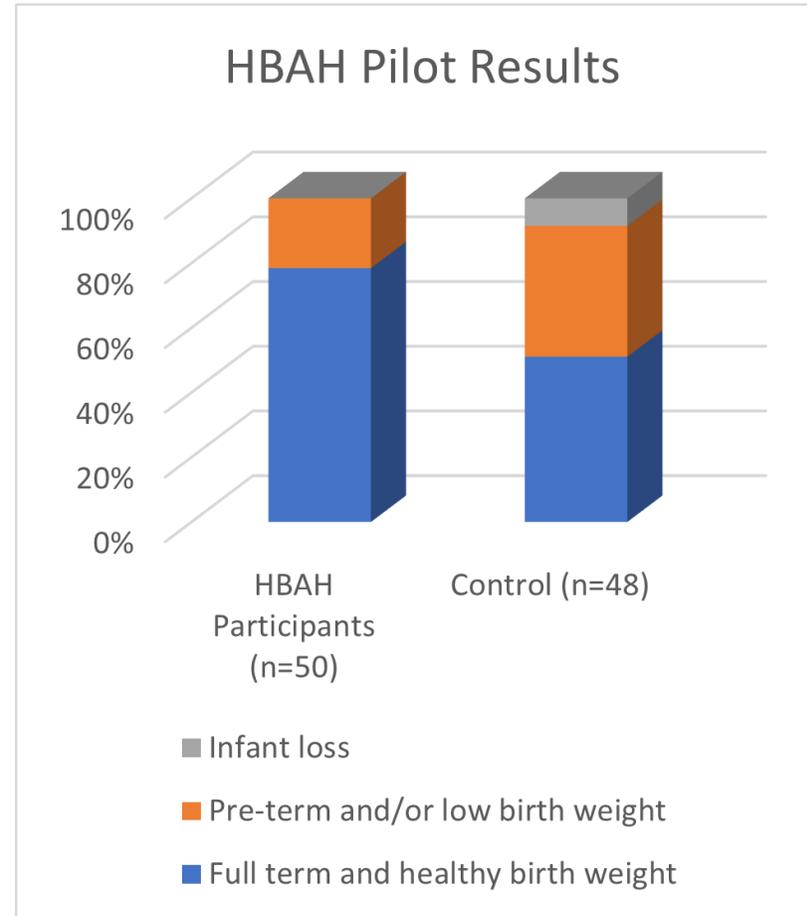
## Evaluation

Needs Assessment  
Barriers, needs, and strengths  
Follow-up

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# Healthy Beginnings at Home: Birth Outcomes Results



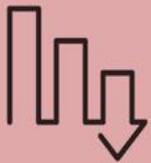


# Healthy Beginnings at Home: Healthcare Utilization Outcomes



Length of  
NICU stay

- The average length of stay (LOS) for well newborns in both groups was 2 days.
- The average LOS for a sick newborn in the intervention group was 8 days compared to 29 days in the control group.
- The intervention group did not have any LOS greater than 17 days, while the control group had 5 cases.



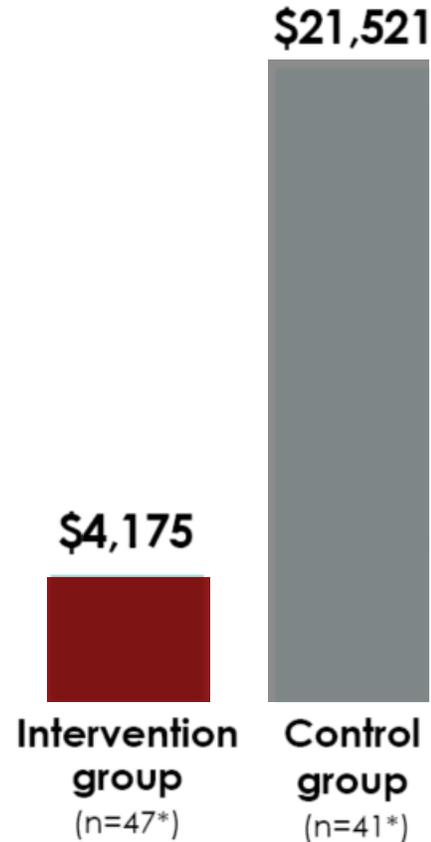
Reduced  
utilization

- Emergency hospital stays reduced by **15%** prior to delivery
- The NICU average duration of stay was reduced by **72%** (intervention group from 8 days vs control 29)
- Newborns placed in NICU were reduced by **60%** (33% vs 13%)
- 30-day readmission rates for the intervention group were **less than** the control group (4.3% vs 12.8%, respectively)

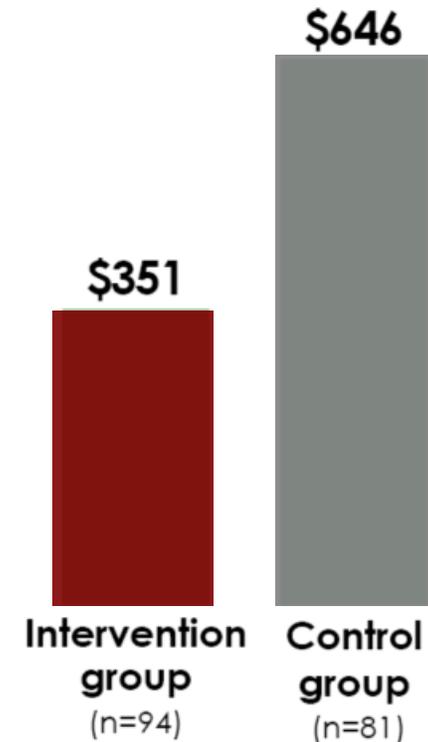


## Healthy Beginnings at Home: Medicaid Spending Outcomes

Average paid per claim:  
Infant only at time of birth  
until initial release from  
hospital



Total Medicaid spending  
per member, per month  
(PMPM) without outliers:  
All household claims  
(from date of infant's birth  
to first birthday)



\* n is based on live births. Does not include fetal deaths.

Source: CareSource



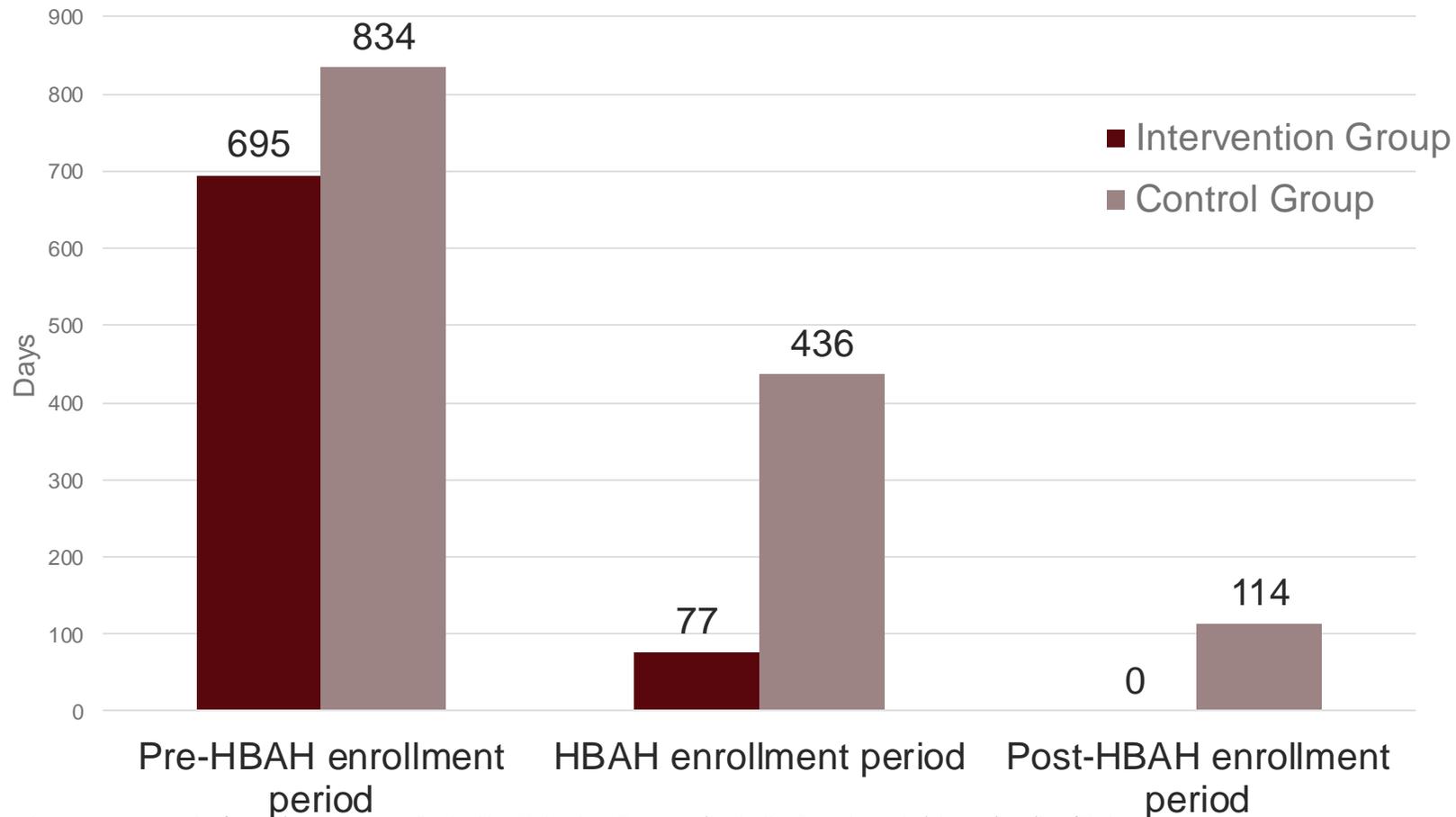
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# Healthy Beginnings at Home: Homelessness Outcomes



Source: Homeless Management Information System, collected by Columbus Community Shelter Board, analysis by University of Delaware



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# Health Justice Intervention Methods

## Education

- Know your rights materials and presentations

## Strategic Litigation



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# Potential Impact of the Initiative



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# Why Support the Housing Equity for Infant Health Initiative?

## Alignment with Funding Priorities

HBAH has the potential to be a solution to problems you are looking to solve.

- ✓ Housing – Affordability and Stability
- ✓ Health – Maternal and Infant Health, Health Policy, Social Determinants of Health
- ✓ Racial Equity
- ✓ Social and Human Services

## Innovation

- ✓ Be a part of a multi-disciplinary, groundbreaking, and transformative that has the potential to change both public policy and the lives of mothers and babies.
- ✓ Directly enable the changes that this effort has the potential to demonstrate.

## Impact

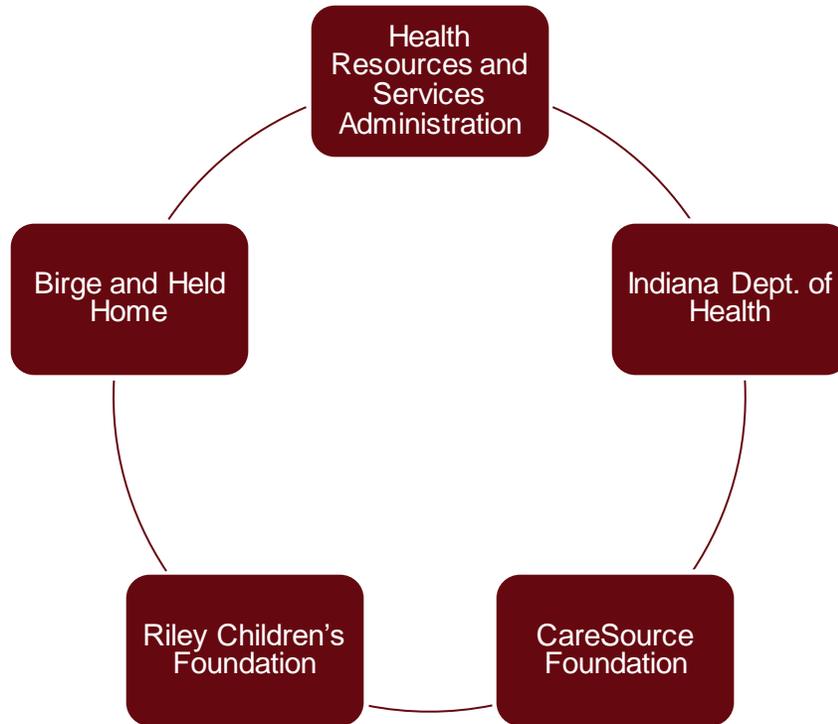
- ✓ Opportunity to prove what we already believe
- ✓ Contributing to the advancement of health and well-being of current and future members of your community.
- ✓ Leveraging other funding sources to reach larger scale of impacted women in Indiana.
- ✓ Potential for eventual statewide and nationwide replication and policy change.

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# A Great Team Effort

## Gratitude for Funders



## The Best Partners

- Grassroots MCH Initiative Staff
- Grassroots MCH Leaders
- CareSource
- Indiana Justice Project
- IDOH
- Merchant's Affordable Housing
- Wheeler Mission
- Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention
- Hoosier Housing Needs Coalition
- Mayor's Office – Indianapolis Office of Public Health and Safety



# To Learn More....

## Contact:

- Jack Turman, Jr., Ph.D., Director, ([jaturman@iu.edu](mailto:jaturman@iu.edu))
- 2022 APHA Thought Leadership Series Film: APHA TV Turman Film: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RRE0W3jquwM&list=PL9CZabk3nD4HBRBttLBd4-KWgilWKPctl&index=17>

## Visit and Follow Us:

- Grassroots MCH Website: <https://go.iu.edu/3jkX>
- [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), & [Instagram](#): @GrassrootsMCH
- YouTube: <https://rb.gy/umyp7u>
- LinkedIn: <https://rb.gy/4wjlf6>

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# Agenda

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## 3. Strategic Priority: Juvenile Justice and Cross-System Youth

Lorraine Cromwell, The Villages

*Update:* Supports for kinship caregivers

A white silhouette of a family walking from left to right. It includes a small child, a man, and a woman. The woman is holding a long, thin ribbon that extends to the right, framing the word 'Villages' in the title.

# The Villages

Presented by Lorraine Conwell, MLD  
Director of Family Connection Network  
April 19, 2023



[You Have to Have Love: A Kinship Story](#)



# Kinship Care:

"the full-time care, nurturing, and protection of children by relatives, members of their tribes, godparents, stepparents, or any adult who has a kinship bond with a child"

146,898



Relative other than their parent is the head of household.

59,000



Homes where no parent resides.

17,000



Marion County homes where no parent resides.



# The Importance

## of Placing with Relatives

- Child can remain with family or those who have a significant relationship with the child
- Child can maintain a relationship, when appropriate, with the biological parent(s) and maintain sibling ties
- Preserves family culture, values, and history
- Minimize trauma for the child
- Behavioral and mental health outcomes
- Permanency

# The Villages' Family Connection Network

- Our vision is for every kinship family and child to maintain a strong sense of identity and pride in culture, heritage, and family connection. The Villages Family Connection Network strives to empower kinship families to help them achieve a stable, positive family experience that will best allow children to reach their full potential.
- Since its inception in 2002, The Villages Family Connection Network has collaborated with several community partners in Marion County to provide supportive services to kinship families.



# Since 2002:



- Case Management + Connectivity to Resources
- Peer-to-Peer Support Groups
- Trainings on Topics informed by Kinship Families
- Tutoring
- Youth Scholarships and School Uniform Assistance
- Respite and Family Bonding Activities
- Holiday Concrete Assistance

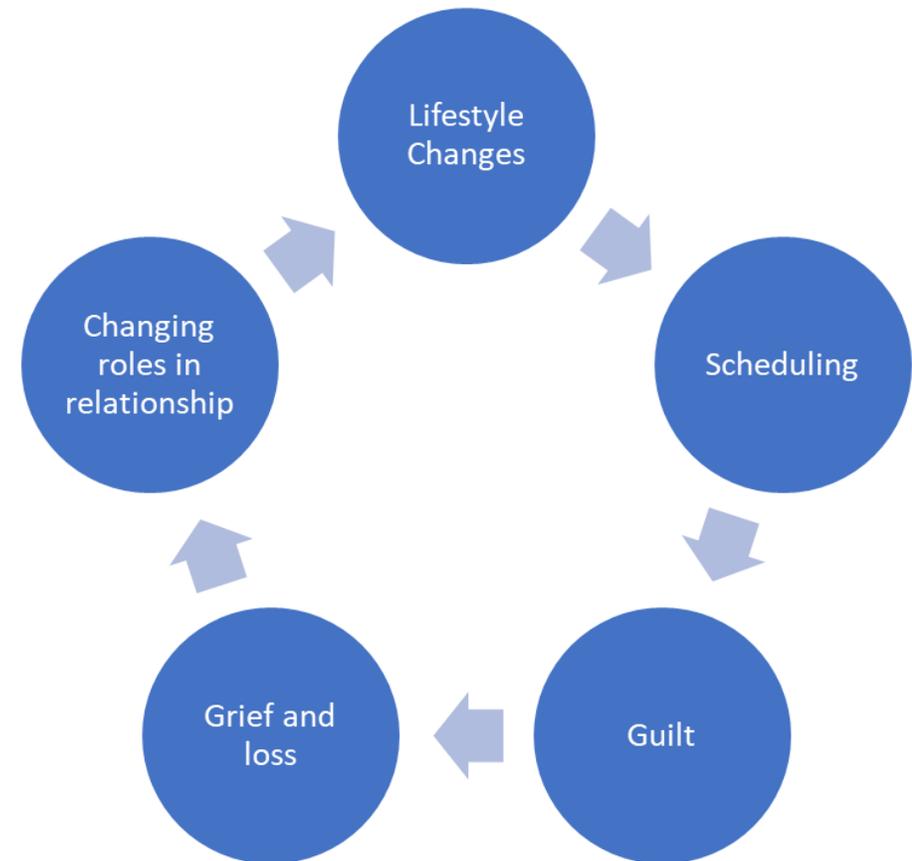
# Indiana Kinship Care Advisory Committee

Indiana's statewide Kinship Care Advisory Committee exists to provide input to Department of Child Services (DCS) and other key kinship care partners regarding the priority needs of caregivers and the children for whom they are caring in order to elevate and support the role of Kinship Caregivers in Indiana.



# The Voice of the Caregiver

- Childcare
- Information not readily available or easily accessible
- Long Term Behavioral Health
- Relationship With Birth Parents
- Financial Hardship





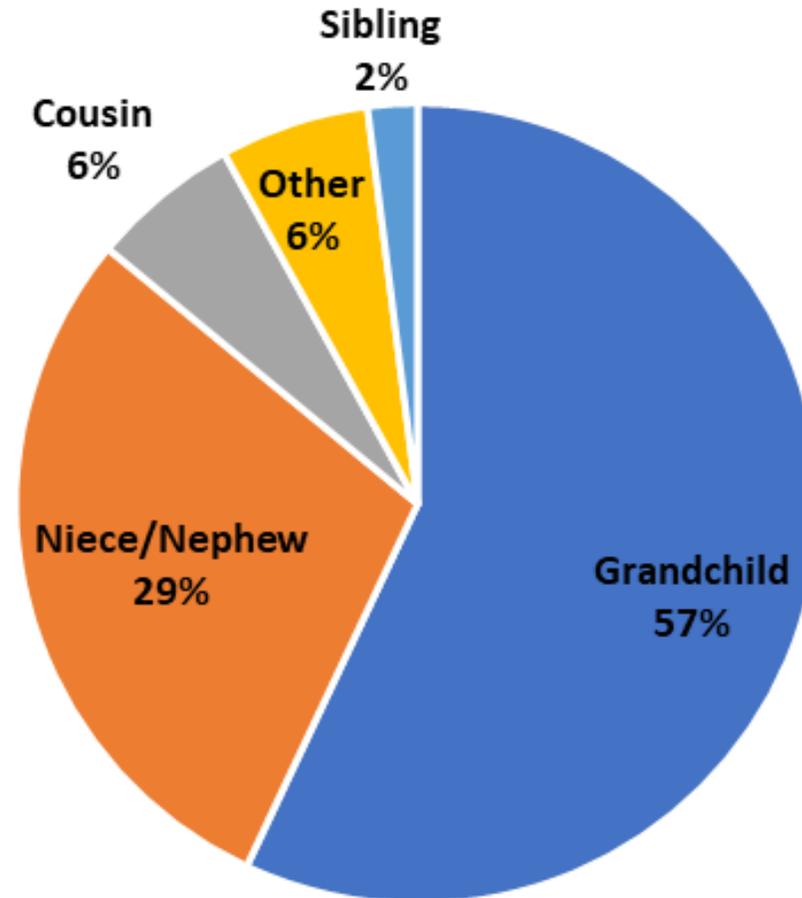
# Family Connection Network

# Concrete Assistance Program

- Rent/Mortgage
- Utilities (Water/Sewer, Gas, Electric)
- Food
- Childcare Assistance
- Household Items
- Extra-Curricular Activities

- Application must be completed by a community partner and can be found online at [www.villageskids.org](http://www.villageskids.org), under Kinship Care

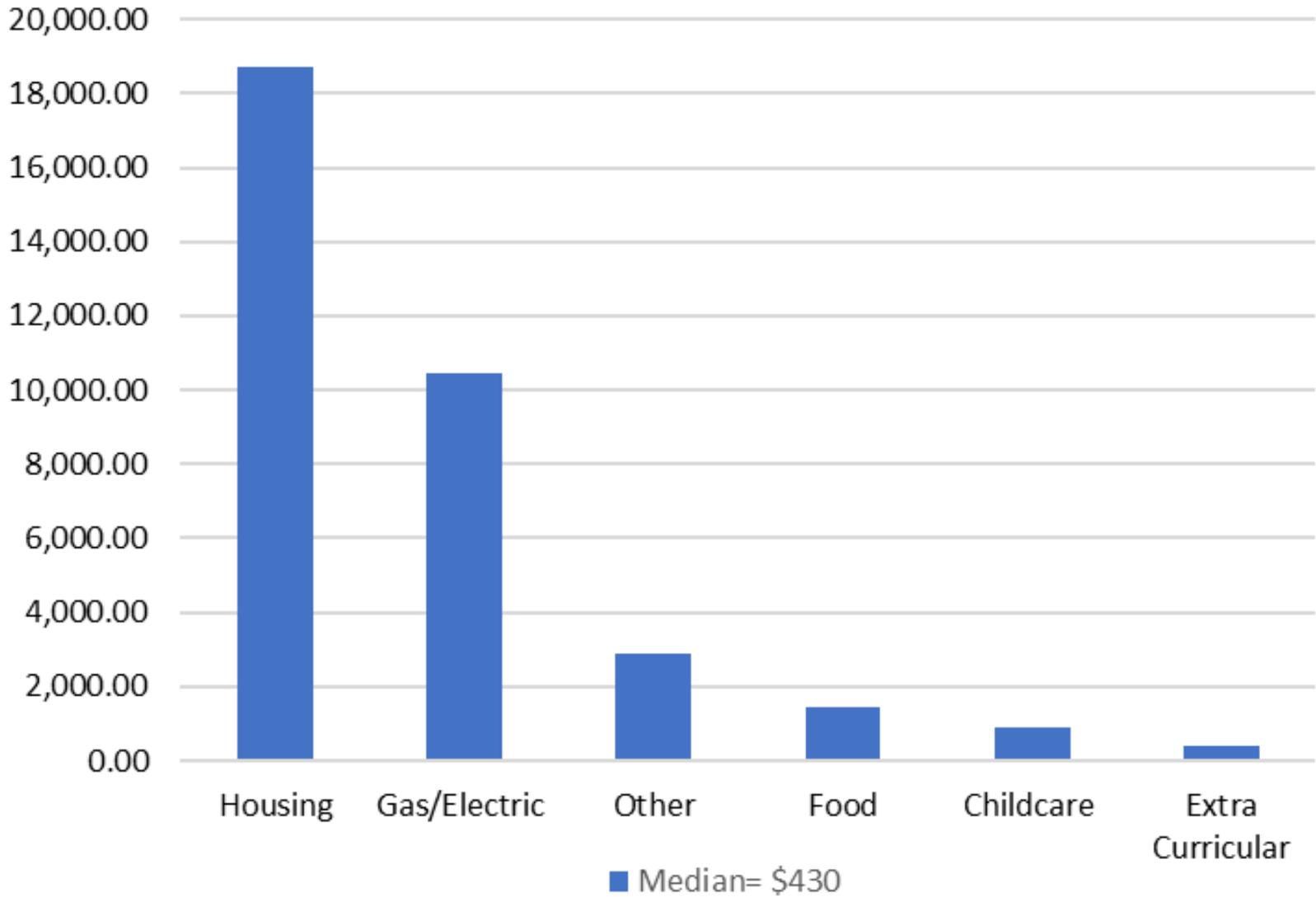
## Child's Relationship to Caregiver



January 2023 - February 2023



### Total Assistance Provided \$34,735.42





Questions?

# Agenda

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## 4. Strategic Priority: Juvenile Justice and Cross-System Youth

Justice Steven David

*Presentation:* Update on the Youth Justice Oversight Committee/1359 Implementation

# Agenda

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## 4. Strategic Priority: Juvenile Justice and Cross-System Youth

Julia Stevens, IPDC

*Presentation:* IPDC At-Risk Youth and Families project

# At Risk Youth and Families: Engaging in the work of Child Welfare



Julia Stevens

Senior Staff Attorney for At Risk Youth and Families

Indiana Public Defender Council



“At Risk Youth and Families”

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# The Position of Indiana Public Defenders

Rural counties  
are silos

Contracts:  
appointed by  
judges

Exception to  
have shared  
physical space

Lack of  
multidisciplinary  
support

IPDC's  
Resources for  
Child Welfare  
Defense  
Attorneys



# Lunch Bunch

- Weekly virtual meet-up for Defenders across the state
- Troubleshoot cases
- Motions practice
- Systemic Issues
- **COMMUNITY**



# Continuing Legal Education

## Case Reviews and Research Requests

Increase of 41% in the first  
9 months

More than 1 request per  
week now

1 request per 10 days

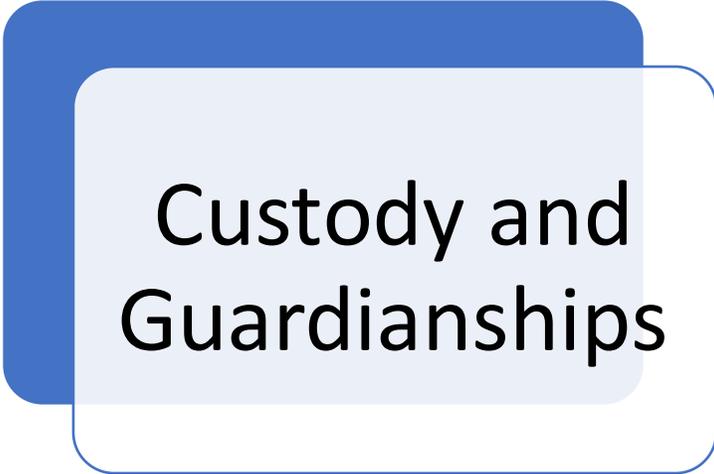
# Child Welfare Intensive Workshop

- 2022
  - 4 day trial skills training
  - Larry Pozner on cross
- 2023
  - 3 day trial skills and informational
  - Smaller topics
  - More breakout sessions

# Preventative Legal Advocacy



Evictions



Custody and  
Guardianships



Protective  
Orders

# Child Welfare Social Worker

- Masters level intern
- Marion County Field Supervisor
- Working directly with PDs across the state
- Placement, services, community resources

# Parent Mentors

- DCS
  - In front of committee for funding
- IRACS
  - Current program is for incarcerated individuals

IPDC's  
Involvement in  
the Greater  
Child Welfare  
Community

Relationship with DCS

Parent Mentor

National Reunification Month

Strengthening Indiana Families

# Agenda

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## 5. Executive Director and Committee Updates

Implementation updates

# Agenda

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6. Discussion: Future Meeting Topics or Other Items from Commission Members

# Agenda

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## 7. Next Meeting

Wednesday, June 21, 10 a.m. – noon

Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room C